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Description of the Exhibit

Approaching the Ernst Hertzberg and Sons Exhibit one hears repeatedly the remark, "Oh, how different and beautiful!"

Both the exterior and interior, Gothic in construction, and antique in finish are restful and soothing to the eye, bewildered by the many different and even at times glaring color effects encountered throughout the exhibition grounds.

Surmounting the north wall, above the large Gothic letters "Ernst Hertzberg and Sons" one observes a replica of an old Monastic Ruin, proportionate to the size of the exhibition room and antique in coloring. Ernst Hertzberg, Senior, was born near the original of this old ruin in the little town of Gramzow in northern Germany, and in honor of his birthplace he named the firm the Monastery Hill Bindery.

Two arched entrances permit a view of the beautiful interior. Beside either entrance and also on the exterior west wall of the room are panels containing replicas of modernistic and conventional bindings, thus drawing the attention to the beautiful books contained in the built-in bookcases of the interior. The harmonious arrangement of these cases seems to be a fitting frame for the large glass case, built into the south wall. This case, among many beautiful and precious bindings, contains the crowning feature of the exhibit—Die Nibelunge, pronounced by booklovers and collectors to be the finest book ever made in the United States.

In another case on the east wall beneath the large colored window, one observes a duplicate of the invitation to the President of the United States made by the Monastery Hill Bindery for the officials of A Century of Progress Exposition.

Many visitors return time and time again, bringing their friends and point out to them another unusual feature of this exhibit. It is a large reproduction of a famous painting by Grutzner, made entirely of inlaid leathers without the use of paint. Each color in the picture of monks working in a monastery is a separate piece of leather set together by hand like a mosaic.

A large Doré Bible bound by the Bindery for the St. Louis Exposition in 1904 stands in a built-in case between the two entrances. Ernst Hertzberg and Sons were awarded a Gold Medal for their exhibit at that time. Above this case hangs a portrait in oil of Ernst Hertzberg, Senior, founder of the firm.

Every afternoon and evening visitors may watch demonstrations of the more difficult manipulations of binding at the window and balustrade facing west.

Courteous attendants are at all times ready to point out the different features of the exhibit.

ARABIAN NIGHTS. See Thousand Nights and One Night. (260).


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279. BOSSU (N.) Nouveaux Voyages dans l'Amerique Septentrionale, contenant une collection de lettres ecrites sur les lieux. 8vo., half calf, 4 superb etchings by Anvret. Paris, 1777. Bossu's account of his first voyage in Louisiana was translated into English, but there has never been an English edition or (any reprint) of this, his third voyage. Fine copy of a rare book. Sabin No. 645. [225.00]

280. CLARKE (Samuel). Geographical Description of All the Countries of the Known World. The greatest and famousest cities, etc. Whereunto is now added: The Four Chiefest English Plantations in America, etc. Collected out of the authors and from such authentic eye witnesses. Containing also, calm the whole Seaboard from the South Seas to the North Pole: with a table of the longitudes and latitudes of all the principal places. London, 1671. 29pp. on New England from 1633 to 1669 by "a reverend gentleman who has lived there since 1629"; 15 pp. on Va. containing account written in 1651 by Alex. Whitaker, minister to that colony; 80 pp. on Spanish America and the British America More Largely and more particularly Described by One That Lived in the Midst Long and That of Late." Eng. title trimmed, lacks half title to Va. section (which has several pp. damaged and leaves slightly defective). Scarce and interesting early description. Allibone gives only a 1689 edition. [185.00]

281. CONARD (Howard L.). "Uncle Dick" Wootton, the Pioneer Frontiersman of the Rocky M. Region. An account of the adventures and thrilling experiences of the most noted American hunter, trapper, guide, scout and Indian fighter now living. Ind. by Maj. Jos. Kirkland. 8vo., illus., Chi., 1890. Valuable narrative of adventures among Utes, Apaches and other Far West tribes. Campaigns against the Navajos, an overland expedition to California in 1852, etc. [45.00]


283. DOMENECH, (L'Abbe) Seven Years Residence in the Great Deserts of North America. 2 vols., 8vo., fold. map, 58 full page tinted plates, and 3 plates of Indian music. London, 1860. [20.00]

Description of life in Texas, New Mexico, California and the North-West, with account of the various Indian tribes, their origin, antiquities, languages and customs.

284. DOUGHTY (Dr. A.) and Parmalee (G. W.). The Siege of Quebec and the Battle of the Plains of Abraham. 6 vols., small 4to., folding maps, facsims., numerous woodcuts, beautifully executed by Goupil. The first 4 vols. are in sets interleaved and long out of print; the most ample and important monograph on any centur year event and one of the handsomest typographical achievements of this century. [50.00]

285. GARDYNER (Geo.). A Description of the New World, or America, Islands and Continent; and by What People Those Regions are now Inhabited. . . . the Trade Winds, the N. W. Passage and the Commerce of the English Nation as They Were All in the Year 1649. 12mo., contemp. full calf, restored. London, 1651. Only printed copy known of this rare, which has now been, in accordance with the importance, for Gardyn describes America from an actual visit made there.

286. LAHONTAN (Baron). Nouveaux Voyages dans l'Amerique Septentrionale . . . des differens peuples qui y habitent, leur gouvernement, religion et maniere de faire la guere, etc. 2 vols., 12mo., contemp., full calf, 26 engraved plates. The Hague, 1704. [30.00]

Rivalled only by Hennepin as a contemporary picture of 17th Century Canada, its Indians, etc., as far west as Michilimackinac.

287. LONG (J.). Voyages and Travels of an Indian Interpreter and Trader. Describing all Mananners and Customs of the Indians; with account of the Posts on the St. Lawrence, Lake Ontario, etc., etc., 4to., half redmoron calf, containing a map, London, 1791. Long's knowledge of the Chippeway and other Indians was unexcelled, being based on a 19-year continuous residence among them. Fine copy, with the supple and adherent full redmoron calf and the 4 maps. [75.00]

288. LOUISIANNE (La.) et du Fleuve Mississippi. Relations de: 12mo., orig. calf, 408p., 14 copper engravings, Amsterdam (Bernard) 1720. Contains: Hennepin's Voyage (originally pub. in 1688); Gosnold's and Gilbert's Voyages to Virginia in 1602-3; the important and well written relation of 1607, properly attributed to Tonio in spite of his denial or, at least, based on his papers; and an extremely interesting relation by an officer of the Spanish Navy, not only containing the Spanish settlements at Bilbao and New Orleans, Indian trade, etc., during the Bienvenu regime, 1715-17. [30.00]


290. MONETTE (Jno. W.). History of the Discovery and Settlement of the Valley of the Mississippi. 2 vols., 8vo. orig. full calf, map N. Y., 1846. Fine set of the most authoritative early study of the subject. Scarce [25.00]

291. PALMER (F. J.). Journal of Travels over the Rocky Mountains, to the Mouth of the Columbia River: made during the years 1843-45. Containing minute descriptions of the Valleys of the Willamette, Umpqua and Clamet; a topographical description of the Oregon Territory; its inhabitants, Climate, Soil, Productions, etc., a List of Necessary Outfits for Emigrants; and a Table of Distances from Camp to Camp on the Route. 8vo., orig. sheep. Cincinnati, 1847. This copy has superimposed on the "F" and "S", done with ink. Thwaites pronounces this book the best account of the Oregon Trail, so full that it could be, and was, used as a "Guide" by the Emigrants. [350.00]

292. SAME. 12 mo. Orig. sheep. Cincinnati, 1851. [125.00]

293. SCHEDEL (Hartmann). Libri Cronicarum figuris etymognibus inchoatum ad initium M. Novem. Folio, let. B. measure 114² x 167½ inches, gothic letter, 84 lines to the page, portrait and over 1800 other woodcuts by Wolgemut and Pleydenwurff, including a highly interesting map. Superbly bound in full crimson levant, back and sides richly gilt, by the Monastery Hill Bindery. Nuremberg (Ant. Koberger), 1493. Fine copy of this seldom seen book. "... that Schedel compiled his work from various sources, adding some things from his own authority" . . . these were doubtless contemporary events, such as the "Discovery of the lake of Neusangular" (Jacob Behaim), in 1483. Wolgemut, who was the teacher of Albrecht Durer, executed here his most enduring work. Illustrations of the Creation, Portraits, Views of Cities, Monstrous Creatures, etc., are of great interest, the genealogies being made to form ornamental borders. The book contains fine folding maps, plates and illustrations, with great boldness and beauty. This copy is quite perfect, containing the fine xylographic title page, the Sarmacia and the 2 blank leaves (folio 259-261), makes a rare and valuable volume. The Pope Joan cut (folio 169) is uncuttitled. Hein. Coppinger 14508; Proctor 2085; Pollard, B. M. Catalog, v.2. 437. [50.00]
ON THE PRESERVATION OF OLD BOOKS

AND

THE CARE OF ALL LEATHER BINDINGS

ANY a precious old book has gone into deterioration or has been destroyed for want of the "stitch in time." Ernst Hertzberg and Sons have cared for many libraries, stopping decay in old and more recent bindings. The old masters wrought so well that if proper methods are employed, further decay can be halted, thus permitting old books to be freely handled. This restoration is a most careful process and must be done only by the best craftsmen who understand from experience the various procedures necessary for books which are in various stages of deterioration.

There are in most libraries books treasured for their associations, which it would be bad policy to rebind entirely. Yet leather decays, joints crack and disintegration sets in. A glance into any library with a collection of old calf bindings usually shows cracked joints, rubbed sides and powdered edges, and in the more recent sheep bindings this decay is even more apparent.

A great number of our publishers have resorted to evil practices, though no doubt unwittingly in many cases, in using poor leathers which have led to an almost entire discontinuance of leather bound books. People have no longer a belief in leather bindings. They note the decay of books which have been bound less than 10 years ago, books which are crumbling and unsightly, and this, even when they have been purchased at high prices.

It seems almost incredible that publishers with but few exceptions have bound their publications in such poor grades of leather that within a period of less than 10 to 15 years their books not only show evidence of deterioration, but are in many cases already beyond redemption in that time. The libraries both public and private are full of dilapidated so-called "leather books," mostly in sets, which have been bound from skins which have been split into as many as three or four splittings. These split skins have then been embossed with plates to represent morocco, levant or other grains. Not only have these skins in many instances been splits, but they have been dyed with tanning acids, injurious to the leather itself, so that many of them have lasted only a few years. A number of these publishers have been careful to say that their books are bound in "genuine Leather" and in this they have told the truth; they are of genuine leather, but they forget to mention that this genuine leather, is leather which has been split and stamped with an imitation grain, and that therefor it is a very weak leather, and not nearly so strong as is cloth or buckram.

There are encyclopedias and other sets, done by some of the publishers who have never resorted to split leather bindings and have adhered to a leather which has proven itself durable. This leather is Turkey Morocco, and books bound in this leather show no evidence of decay after as long as fifty years, if they have been cared for. Books bound hundreds of years ago will often respond to treatment, where those bound a hundred years later will not.

Old books, whether bound in old calf, sheep or goat skin or in leather now not determinable, should first be well washed, to be freed from the dirt
which has imbedded itself in the leather. After drying, the leather, if calf skin or sheep skin, may be washed with newly made paste wash, of old fashioned alum paste which is made by boiling wheat flour and adding a little powdered alum. This paste wash should be of the consistency of buttermilk and is used as a wash for the entire book, applied with a sponge and rubbed in well with the palm of the hand. This paste washing should be done only on books that will respond to washing and rubbing. Good results are obtained generally in the books done hundreds of years ago and on those books termed “Incunabula.” This washing usually will make a rough surface smooth and the rubbing enlivens the leather and often gives it an almost lustrous appearance. Books so treated may be rubbed later with neatfoot oil, which should also be well rubbed in. On more recent calf bindings on which the leather is still intact, the paste wash may be omitted, unless books show evidences of being scuffed. Books bound fifty years ago in calf skin or colored sheep skin often show a peeling off; paste wash used on such books will improve them readily and will bring about a great change. These, too, are to be rubbed later with neatfoot oil. On new calf bindings it is necessary to exercise great care. They should not be touched at all, except possibly only to rub them up with cotton wafting. Law sheep with rough surface had better be only well brushed, but smooth sheep surfaces may be paste washed and rubbed with neatfoot oil after being thoroughly rubbed.

Morocco, Pigskin, Russia and Levant should be cleaned by washing with water, then rubbed with neatfoot oil without the use of a paste wash. All calf books may be varnished to brighten them, but varnish should rarely be used on moroccos or levants as varnish on the surface of these leathers become smearable, though this is not so with calf bound books.

Prepared pastes should never be used as paste washes, as ingredients are not known and may prove harmful. Fine books should be kept under glass, as exposed in open shelves they soon collect the dust which lodges in the pores of the grain of the moroccan or levant or other leather books and also on their tops, where it is difficult to get at.

If cared for periodically, books as well as anything else, will last indefinitely, and the cost is very small compared to the benefits derived, but it must be done by experts who have been accustomed to handling fine books and who have a knowledge of leather and can be trusted to do satisfactory work.

We have seen valuable books treated which have been entirely ruined by those who have had no experience or knowledge of the preservation of books.

THE MONASTERY HILL BINDERY

LEATHERS AND PRICES OF BINDINGS

We have used Turkey Morocco tanned in Germany and French Levant tanned in France (goatskins) for over fifty years. Roger Paine, old time English bookbinder, often referred to for the care with which he made out his bills, setting forth in lengthy detail each item that he used and giving the time for each operation and charge for same, bound many of his books in Turkey Morocco. This leather, as well as French Levant, has been well suited for fine books, first because if properly tanned, it is durable; secondly, because the grain is beautiful. The Turkey Morocco has a fine even grain and the French Levant has a large beautiful grain. Both of these leathers are easily manipulated and polish well. It has therefore been used by the leading French and English binders for the very finest work and adopted in this country and used by the best binders for the same purpose. Both of these leathers lend themselves to fine gold or blind tooling, and they both are beautiful in themselves without tooling.

Calfskin, used principally by the English, is a much cheaper material in England and will last a long time but will deteriorate rapidly if books bound in this leather are not kept under glass. This is true, too, of Turkey Morocco or French Levant, as they too will last much longer if kept under glass, but in any event, are more durable than calf.

Niger Morocco (sun tanned in Africa and colored by the Europeans) is a small goat skin from the oasis regions and is very tough. This leather is much used by the English binders for fine work. Cobden Sanderson has used it quite extensively. It works well and polishes well.

The old binders used Goat skin, Pigskin, Sheep skins, and Deer skins but their method of tanning was superior to our best methods it would appear, for there are books that have been bound centuries ago and which are still intact and it would seem that many of the books which have gone into decay might have lasted longer if better cared for. In this country our tanning processes for bookbinding leathers are inferior and our leathers are therefore inferior also. An almost inconceivable number and variety of grains are produced—skins split and stamped and colored—all of which, we are sorry to say, are unfit for fine bookbinding. Although high in price they are poor in quality.

Many books are bound in domestic moroccan leather, skins which to the detecting eye are not nearly so beautiful as the foreign skins. They do not work so well and cannot be polished so well and their colors do not last. Seal skins and cowhides are an exception, but these are less used for bookbinding purposes. A cowhide can be split into three or four splittings and only the outside or hairy side will be strong. The under splits are stamped with a variety of grains and have been used, although wrongfully so, for sets of authors or encyclopedias and other editions. They are less used for this purpose today, as the tendency is not to bind in these poor leathers now, as their use has wrought such tremendous deterioration in books. They are used more for leather pamphlet work and cheap novelties. There is a general tendency today to use more artificial leather with fabric base. No fine books should be bound in sheep skin or cowhide or split leather. English calf skin is very little used in this country because it is higher in price on account of
duties and cost of shipping than all leather tanned here for bookbinding purposes, but it is better than any leather tanned here.

Imported Levants of fine quality are worth $1.50 per foot, and skins average ten feet. Turkey Morocco, imported, of fine quality is worth $.75 per foot; the skins average ten feet.

Calf skins, imported, of fine quality are worth $.75 per foot, skins averaging 10 feet. Imported Pigskins are worth $.75 per foot and average 12 to 14 feet.

Imported Niger Morocco is worth $.50 per foot and averages seven feet. Domestic morocco of best quality $.40 per foot, skins averaging eight feet.

Sheep splits vary from $.12 to $.20 per foot.

Prices for bookbinding with hand sewing, gilt tops, fine hand colored paper or cloth linings or imported paper linings with hand tooling in gold or antique style:

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<td>12mo. or smaller</td>
<td>$3.50 to $4.50</td>
<td>8vo.</td>
<td>Large octavo</td>
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For 3/4 Levant prices are approximately $1.50 per volume higher. For full bound Turkey Morocco or Levant with plain tooling, prices are about double of what they are in three-quarter style. The above prices are for single books or in sets of two or three volumes. If in large sets prices are approximately from 10 to 25 per cent off these prices according to the extent of set, 10 volume sets 15 per cent less and twenty or more volume sets 25 per cent less. Prices and materials will be sent on request.

Magazine bindings range in price for full buckram from $1.75 for National Geographic size to $3.00 for large quarto. Octavo size of books in cloth or Buckram cost in general $1.50 for a single book to $1.00 and $1.25 in sets and more according to size.

Prices for fine old books rebacked in leather to match original on request, but usually they can be done for from $5.00 per volume for Octavo size to $10.00 or $12.00 for quarto size and more for larger sizes. For books of first edition to be repaired, $1.75 per hour or encased for $1.50 for a single slip case in cloth and if lined with flannel $2.50. Turkey Morocco leather backed slip cases with cloth sides and wrappers for single cases $5.00. Fine solondar full flexible one piece cases in Niger or Turkey Morocco from $12.00 to $20.00.

Our shop is located at 1751 Belmont Avenue, Chicago, telephone Lakeview 4126. We will be glad to have you come to our bindery, call us, or write to discuss with us your problems of books in your library, or to view our stock of fine books which we have on hand. We will send a representative to you if you wish.

Ernst Hertzberg & Sons
The Monastery Hill Bindery

Kiss and Ringer in 1870 were the founders of the present day firm of Ernst Hertzberg and Sons, the Monastery Hill Bindery. When Chicago was growing with rapid strides, there was need for a good bookbindery. Kiss and Ringer filled the needed want by employing good workmen from New York, although Mr. Ringer was somewhat of a craftsman himself. The firm burned out in the great fire of 1871 which destroyed the books in our public library as well as books in numerous private libraries. The city arose from its ruins and soon became more prosperous than ever. New and spacious houses with libraries were built and new public libraries instituted.

Chicagoans came with work to be done and bookbinding was a matter of great interest to them. Stirred to sympathy by our great disaster, Queen Victoria and other benevolent English people donated new books to the Chicago Public Library. Among these donations were sets of the better periodicals in fine bindings of calf, beautifully tooled. It fell to the lot of Ringer and Co. (successors to Kiss and Ringer) to do the work of binding and matching the leather and tooling of these periodicals and the continuation of them in fine leathers.

In the year 1874 Mr. Ernst Hertzberg whose name the firm now bears, applied for work at Ringer and Co. He had learned his trade abroad and his abilities fitted him to enter the growing firm. He soon became a partner with Mr. Ringer. One by one he took into the shop his sons, all of whom learned the trade thoroughly. The name of the firm was changed to Ernst Hertzberg and Sons, The Monastery Hill Bindery. The "Monastery Hill Bindery" was added in memory of his birthplace which was near an old Monastery situated on a hill, long in ruins in the small town of Gramzow, in northern Germany.

Today Ernst Hertzberg and Sons present their work at a Century of Progress. In their exhibit in the Graphic Arts section of the General Exhibits building they exhibit their finest bindings, books outstanding in design and workmanship, and show through actual presentation by their craftsmen the fine art of bookbinding as handed down through the years by the great binders.

Books in a great variety and style are hand sewn and bound in the finest leathers. Edges of books are decorated by artists at hand in designs of many colors. Gold and blind tooling with inlaying of leather are demonstrated.

In making this, their supreme effort, Ernst Hertzberg and Sons are reminded of the liberal patronage ever given them over the long period of years by the best families, the booksellers, the public and institutional libraries throughout the state, and it is in a spirit of thankfulness that they make a display which they think is worthy of such patronage. Their exhibit surpasses their exhibit at St. Louis in 1904 where they received a gold medal.

The firm is now conducted under the name of Ernst Hertzberg and Sons, the Monastery Hill Bindery, by Edward Hertzberg and has been carried into the third generation by the participation of Lawrence and Charlotte Hertzberg, son and daughter of Edward Hertzberg.